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Art Unit 2878

the separate portions to the electromagnetic radiation, and separate portions of the second sample are exposed to electromagnetic radiation without exposing portions of the second sample between the separate portions to the electromagnetic radiation.

7. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, involving determining absorption of the electromagnetic radiation by each of the first and second samples and determining a difference in absorption of the second sample compared with the first sample.

9. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the first and second samples are different fluids.

15. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein each of the first and second samples comprises a series of elongate, essentially parallel sections.

18. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein each of the first and second samples is two-dimensionally variant, and the diffraction pattern is two-dimensionally variant.

22. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein each of the first and second samples is positioned in elongate voids in an article that is at least partially transparent to the electromagnetic radiation.

24. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein each of the first and second samples is positioned in isolated, essentially parallel channels in a sample chamber.

28. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein each of the first and second samples is positioned in isolated, essentially parallel channels in a sample chamber that is essentially transparent to the electromagnetic radiation.

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